Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for efficiently categorizing images on a computer system, comprising the steps of:

(a) ordering a series of related images that are to be categorized by time of capture;

(b) displaying category levels for input of category information by a user, wherein the category levels include a highest-category level and a lowest-category level, the highest-category level having a low frequency of data change between the series of related images, and the lowest-category level having a high frequency of data change between the series of related images, wherein any intermediate category levels have medium frequency of data change between the series of related images;

(c) categorizing a first image by allowing the user to enter highest-category level data and lowest-category level data, and as the user enters data, comparing the data with previous entries, and when a match is found, automatically entering the previous entry to thereby reduce inconsistent terminology;

(d) categorizing a next image in the series by leaving the highest-category level data unchanged, and automatically selecting the lowest-category level data for reentry by the user, thereby eliminating the need for the user to reenter the highest-category level data;

(e) in response to a user pressing a key, moving a cursor from the lowest-category level to a higher-category level for data entry; and

(f) categorizing another image in the series by leaving the cursor at the higher-category level for data entry.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein step (d) further includes the step of:

(i) comparing date and time differences between the first image and the next image to automatically detect a category change from the first image to the next image; and

(ii) if a category change is detected, automatically selecting an appropriate category level for reentry by the user.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Canceled)

5. (Canceled).

6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~6~~ 2 wherein step (b) further includes the step of:

(ii) displaying a thumbnail of the current image being categorized.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Canceled)

10. (Canceled)

11. (Canceled)

12. (Canceled)

13. (Canceled)

14. (Currently amended) A computer readable medium containing program instructions for efficiently categorizing images on a computer system, the instructions for:

(a) ordering a series of related images that are to be categorized by time of capture;

(b) displaying category levels for input of category information by a user, wherein the category levels include a highest-category level and a lowest-category level, the highest-category level having a low frequency of data change between the series of related images, and the lowest-category level having a high frequency of data change between the series of related images, wherein any intermediate category levels have medium frequency of data change between the series of related images;

(c) categorizing a first image by allowing the user to enter highest-category level data and lowest-category level data, and as the user enters data, comparing the data with previous entries, and when a match is found, automatically entering the previous entry to thereby reduce inconsistent terminology;

(d) categorizing a next image in the series by leaving the highest-category level data unchanged, and automatically selecting the lowest-category level data for reentry by the user, thereby eliminating the need for the user to reenter the highest-category level data;

(e) in response to a user pressing a key, moving a cursor from the lowest-category level to a higher-category level for data entry; and

(f) categorizing another image in the series by leaving the cursor at the higher-category level for data entry.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14 wherein step (d) further includes the step of:

(i) comparing date and time differences between the first image and the next image to automatically detect a category change from the first image to the next image; and

(ii) if a category change is detected, automatically selecting an appropriate category level for reentry by the user.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Canceled)

18. (Canceled)

19. (Canceled).

20. (Currently amended) The computer readable medium of claim ~~19~~ 15 wherein instruction (b) further includes the instruction of:

(ii) displaying a thumbnail of the current image being categorized.

21. (Canceled)

22. (Canceled)

25. (Canceled)

26. (Canceled)